

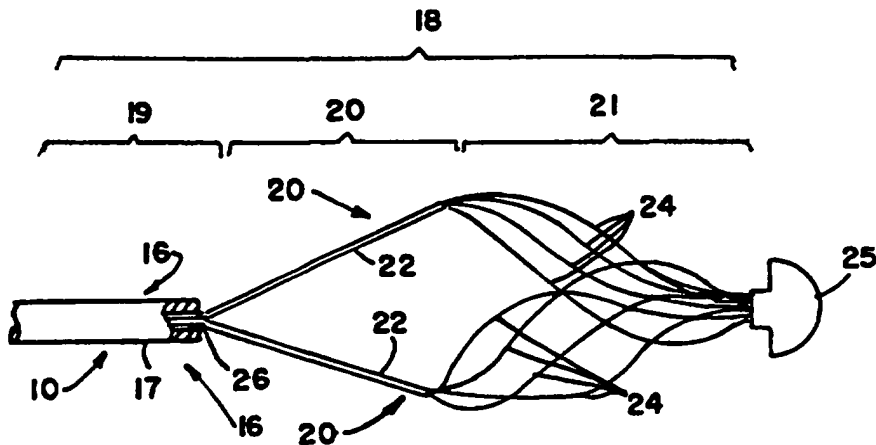


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(54) Title: SURGICAL WIRE BASKET EXTRACTOR**(57) Abstract**

The present invention is a surgical extractor (10) for removing objects from a body, such as kidney stones and gall stones. The extractor includes a handle (11) at a proximal end (12) of the extractor with a slider (14) for operation by a physician. At the distal end (16) the extractor includes a plurality of wires (24) with each wire comprising a first portion having an individual strand (22), and a second portion (24) comprising a plurality of filaments. The use of such a basket promotes capture of objects within the body by having widely spaced wires in the first section, retention of such objects in the second section by multiplying the number of contacts with entrapped object, and improved selective release of such objects without any deleterious effect on the reliability or size of the extractor.



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Description

Surgical Wire Basket Extractor

Technical Field

This invention generally relates to medical
5 instruments and more specifically to an extractor for
removing an object from a body, particularly calculi that
can form in the biliary and urinary systems.

Recently developed medical instruments reduce the
invasiveness and potential trauma previously associated
10 with various medical procedures. The removal of calculi
in the form of kidney stones, gallstones and the like from
the body is one area where this effort is meeting with
success. Various instruments now permit the removal of
kidney stones and gallstones without the need for major
15 surgery. Some of these instruments incorporate
miniaturized grasping forceps. This invention, however,
is directed to an alternative set of instruments that
utilize mechanical retrieval baskets.

Background Art

20 The following United States Letters Patents and
United States Patent Application describe various types of
such retrieval baskets:

	4,346,846	(1982)	Dormia
	4,590,938	(1986)	Segura et al.
25	4,611,594	(1986)	Grayhack et al.
	4,625,726	(1986)	Duthoy
	4,807,626	(1989)	McGirr
	5,064,428	(1991)	Cope et al.

Serial No. 08/258,121 (1994) Bates et al.

30 Dormia discloses a retrieval basket at a distal end
of a surgical extractor selectively extended beyond a tube
in an enlarged condition. The retrieval basket comprises
a plurality of wire pairs with the wires in the pairs
extending in opposite helical wound paths to provide
35 relatively closer wire spacings in the distal end of the
enlarged retrieval basket compared to the proximal end.
The differential wire spacing promotes the capture of
objects in the middle portion of the retrieval basket and

entrapment of such objects in the distal end of the retrieval basket.

Segura et al. disclose a medical retrieval device that can be inserted through the working channel of an endoscope for removing stones and the like from the kidneys or the ureter or biliary duct. A retrieval basket of relatively large diameter extends from the distal end of a sheath and collapses into a compact form when drawn into the sheath. Individual outwardly bowed spring strips form the retrieval basket. These strips extend generally axially of the sheath and join at respective distal and proximal ends. The retrieval basket has a generally bulbous form which is relatively stiff due to the spring strip construction and facilitates dislodgment and capture of stones.

The Grayhack et al. patent discloses another retrieval basket that is useful during the removal and/or destruction of calculi. A smooth outer tubular sheath overlies and contains a stranded wire cable terminating in a protective tip at the working or distal end of the device. When the cable is extended distally, the individual spring wire strands at the working end of the cable expand to form a retrieval basket. The distal end of this device additionally includes an expandable distal portion for protecting surrounding tissue during withdrawal of the device and calculi.

The Duthoy patent discloses an extraction device that includes a retrieval basket formed from a plurality of individual wires spaced about and outwardly from an imaginary extension of the center line of a hollow cable. A filiform extends distally from the distal end of the retrieval basket to extend past a stone and to allow the basket to be threaded around and onto the calculi.

The McGirr patent discloses an extractor including a self-closing retrieval basket at the distal end of a catheter with a flexible control line for opening the retrieval basket from the proximal end of the catheter. The retrieval basket assumes a normal position wherein it

is in a compact closed form. Pulling on the control line flexes individual strips which define the retrieval basket to open the retrieval basket. When the control line is released, the strips relax and surround the calculi or
5 object being removed.

Cope et al. disclose a stone retrieval basket having superelastic individual wire loops secured together at the apex of the loops to define a distal end of a retrieval basket which can be insert through and beyond a distal end
10 of an elongated tube. Sleeves which secure the wires in a spaced relation and defines the proximal end of the retrieval basket, so the retrieval basket has a bulbous shape.

Bates et al. disclose, in a co-pending patent
15 application commonly assigned with this application, a surgical retrieval basket comprising axially extending wires that are grouped in sets of filaments. The wires are normally maintained in an overlying sheath in a compact condition and form an enlarged retrieval basket
20 upon retraction of the sheath. The individual filaments in a set are relatively closely angularly spaced with the sets being relatively widely spaced to provide a greater number of contact points with entrapped calculi without significantly increasing the manipulations necessary to
25 capture such calculi in the retrieval basket.

These and other surgical extractors using retrieval baskets have certain common characteristics. Each retrieval basket comprises a plurality of filaments in the form of individual strands, strips or wires that extend
30 from a proximal end of the retrieval basket to the distal end of the retrieval basket and, as disclosed by Cope et al., back to the proximal end. In some retrieval baskets the strands are formed along substantially straight lines when the retrieval basket is in a compact form; in others,
35 along a generally helical path. Each instrument includes a plurality of three or more such individual strands to provide contact points for entrapping objects and between

which the objects must pass for capture within the retrieval basket.

Retrieval baskets preferably include sufficient numbers of closely spaced wires to provide an enclosure
5 for retaining objects captured within such retrieval baskets while having relatively few widely spaced wires for promotion of capture of such objects. Additionally, the overall size or diameter of an extractor and ancillary equipment, such as an endoscopic device, can impose upper
10 limits on the number of wires and the size of the individual wires. Thus, the design of such baskets involves a compromise between the numbers of wires needed to retain objects and to promote capture of such objects and the overall size of such wires for sufficient strength
15 of the basket.

The following United States Letters Patents and United States Patent Application describe retrieval baskets that include a material coating over the distal end of the baskets to encapsulate objects to be removed
20 from the body:

3,472,230 (1969) Fogarty

4,790,812 (1988) Hawkins, Jr. et al.

Fogarty discloses a surgical retrieval basket that extends from the distal end of a catheter and comprises
25 four spring wires that to a slide. An umbrella of suitable flexible material is connected to the distal portion of the wires so that upon deployment of the retrieval basket the edges of the umbrella form a circular scrapper. Retracting the retrieval basket from a deployed
30 condition toward and then into a proximal sheath removes debris from a body passage with the umbrella retaining and then closing upon the captured debris.

Hawkins, Jr. et al. disclose a parachute retrieval basket deployed from the end of a catheter. The retrieval
35 basket comprises four individual helically wound spring wires that extend between proximal to distal ends of the basket. A thin, porous fabric web secures and covers the

distal portion of the wires to thereby prevent passage of debris, such as emboli or atheroma therethrough.

These and other surgical extractors having a unitary material web at the distal end have certain common
5 characteristics. Each retrieval basket comprises a plurality of filaments in the form of individual strands, strips or wires that extend from a proximal end to the distal end of the retrieval basket. Like the previously described retrieval baskets, the strands lie either along
10 substantially straight lines or extend along a generally helical path when the retrieval basket is in a compact form. The retrieval baskets include at least four individual strands to which the web is attached along a distal portion.

15 The design of a web retrieval basket is also a compromise between (1) the numbers of the strands necessary to deploy the web in a sufficiently open, radially-extended edge, (2) the numbers of wires to promote passage of objects through the wires into the
20 retrieval basket, and (3) the overall size or diameter of an extractor and ancillary equipment, such as an endoscopic device with which the retrieval basket is used.

These web baskets, however, are more difficult to manufacture than wire retrieval baskets, and further limit
25 the diameter of the wires due to the space occupied by the web in the compacted condition.

Thus, additional wires in either a wire or web retrieval basket would be advantageous in certain respects and detrimental in others. For example, increasing the
30 number of wires increases the number of contacts between the basket and any entrapped calculi and, in the case of a web basket more evenly opens the parachute. However, the resulting decrease in the spacing between such wires complicates the manipulations necessary for an expanded
35 retrieval basket of either type to capture the calculi. Likewise, reducing the numbers of wires facilitates the capture of the object between the wires and selective release of the object, if needed. However, the fewer

contact points between the captured object and the retrieval basket make retention and entrapment of such objects more difficult and, in the web basket, limit the radial extent of the web.

5 Additionally, most of these devices do not permit the retrieval basket to be dragged proximally along a surface to engage objects therealong. This would be particularly useful in the case of impacted calculi, e.g., kidney stones, that now frequently require major surgery due to
10 the inability of the prior art devices to remove them. Thus, while the devices described above have some of the desirable features, none provide a device that is relatively simple to manufacture, promotes ease of capture of objects, promotes ease of percutaneous release of such
15 objects, and promotes retention of relatively small objects captured.

Disclosure of Invention

Therefore it is an object of this invention to provide a surgical extractor that increases the
20 reliability of retaining entrapped objects in a retrieval basket.

Another object of this invention is to provide a surgical extractor that increases the number of contact points with entrapped objects in a distal portion of a
25 retrieval basket without increasing the overall size of the instrument.

Still another object of this invention is to provide a surgical extractor that promotes the selective release of entrapped objects.

30 Another object of this invention is to provide a surgical extractor that enables the entrapment of objects embedded in bodily tissue.

Still another object of this invention is to provide a surgical extractor that increases the number of contacts
35 with entrapped calculi in an extractor that is readily manufactured.

Still yet another object of this invention is to provide a surgical extractor that increases the number of

contact points with entrapped calculi and promotes ease of capture of such calculi.

Still a further object of this invention is to provide a surgical extractor that provides an open wire web of a plurality of filaments in a distal portion and individual strands in a proximal portion to optimize both the entry and capture of objects in the proximal portion of the retrieval basket and retention of such objects in the distal portion of the retrieval basket.

10 Yet a further object of this invention is to provide a surgical extractor that provides relatively few individual wire strands to promote capture of objects.

Yet still a further object of this invention is to provide a surgical extractor that decreases the number of interfering contact point wires with an object at the proximal portion of the extractor while maximally increasing the number of contacts with the object at a distal portion to retain such object.

In accordance with this invention a surgical extractor for removing an object from a body includes a retrieval basket with distal and proximal ends and a retractable sheath. The retractable sheath in a first position retains the retrieval basket in a compact condition and in a second position frees the retrieval basket for expansion to form an enlarged basket that comprises a plurality of wires extending between the distal and proximal ends of the basket. Each of the wires of the basket comprises a first section having an individual strand extending from one end, such as the proximal end, of the basket and a second section having a plurality of individual filaments that extend between the other end, such as the distal end, of the basket and the strand.

According to another aspect of this invention a surgical extractor for removing an object from a body comprises a handle extending along an axis that includes a base for being grasped by a physician and a slider for axial reciprocation relative to the base. The base

connects with basket forming means for forming a enlarged basket distally of the handle. The basket includes a set of spaced, spring formed wires with each of the wires have a first section comprising an individual strand and a
5 second section comprising a plurality of spaced filaments of wires. A sheath connects to the slider for axial displacement with respect to the basket whereby the sheath in a first position retains the wires and in a second position exposes the first and second sections of the
10 wires to enable the wires to expand and form the basket.

According to a further aspect of this invention a surgical extractor for removing objects from a body comprises an axially extending, molded plastic, partially hollowed base and a support. The support includes a solid
15 stainless steel, radially flexible, axially stiff rod attached to and extending distally from the base, a stainless steel cable extending distally from the rod and a connector axially connecting the rod and cable. A plurality of spaced stainless steel wires attached to the
20 distal end of said cable. Each wire has a proximal portion comprising an individual strand and a distal portion comprising a plurality of filaments. Proximal movement of a plastic slider captured in the base moves a polyimide sheath and exposes the wires whereby the sheath
25 compacts and retains said wires at substantially a given diameter in its distal position and releases the wires from their compact form to thereby form an enlarged retrieval basket.

Brief Description of Drawings

30 The appended claims particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter of this invention. The various objects, advantages and novel features of this invention will be more fully apparent from a reading of the following detailed description in conjunction with the
35 accompanying drawings in which like reference numerals refer to like parts, and in which:

Fig. 1 is a plan view of a surgical extractor constructed in accordance with this invention with a

handle at a proximal end and an expanded retrieval basket at a distal end;

Fig. 2 is a enlarged view, partially in cross section, of the distal end of the extractor of Fig. 1;

5 Fig. 3 is a enlarged plan view of the distal end of the extractor of FIG. 1 with the retrieval basket in a reduced, expanded form;

Fig. 4 is an enlarged view, partially in cross section, of the distal end of the extractor shown in Figs.
10 1 with the retrieval basket in a compact form;

Fig. 5 is an enlarged plan view of the distal end of another surgical extractor incorporating another embodiment of a retrieval basket in an expanded form;

Fig. 6 is an enlarged plan view similar to FIG. 5 of
15 still another embodiment of a retrieval basket in an expanded form;

Fig. 7 is an enlarged plan view similar to FIG. 5 of yet another embodiment of a retrieval basket in an expanded form;

20 Fig. 8 is an enlarged plan view similar to FIG. 5 of yet still another embodiment of a retrieval basket in an expanded form;

Fig. 9 is an enlarged plan view similar to FIG. 5 of a further embodiment of a retrieval basket in an expanded
25 form;

Fig. 10 is an enlarged plan view of the handle at the proximal end of the extractor shown in Fig. 1;

Fig. 11 is another view, partially in section, taken along lines 11-11 in Fig. 10; and

30 Fig. 12 is a cross sectional view taken along lines 12-12 in Fig. 11.

Best Mode for Carrying Out the Invention

Fig. 1 depicts one embodiment of a surgical extractor
10 constructed in accordance with this invention. The
35 surgical extractor 10 includes a handle 11 at a proximal end 12 having a base 13 and a slider 14. A physician can grasp the base 13 in the palm in his or her hand and manipulate the slider 14 with his or her thumb. A

retrieval basket 15 formed in accordance with this invention is located at the distal end 16 of the extractor 10. A sheath 17 overlies an intermediate supporting structure between the handle 1 and the retrieval basket 15.

As shown in Fig. 1 the slider 14 is located at a proximal position 14A. As the slider 14 advances to a distal position 14B as depicted in phantom, the sheath 17 advances from the position depicted in FIG. 2 through the position shown in FIG. 3 to the position illustrated in FIG. 4. In FIG. 4 the sheath 17 compacts and covers the retrieval basket 15 within a central aperture of the sheath. The sheath 17 typically comprises a polyimide tube or a tube of another material that exhibits the radial flexibility, axial stiffness, biocompatibility and hoop strength of a polyimide tube.

FIG. 2 depicts the distal end 16 of the surgical extractor 10 in an enlarged form in which the retrieval basket 15 forms a basket assembly 18 comprising three axially extending sections 19, 20, and 21. The first, or most proximal, section 19 and the second, or intermediate, section 20 comprise individual prestressed strands 22. The third, or most distal, section 21 comprises prestressed filaments 24 that extend distally from each of the ends of the strands 22 to a cap 25.

Each of the strands 22 and the filaments 24 are formed of stainless steel or some other shape memory material. The cap 25 captures distal ends of all the filaments 24 by soldering the filaments 24 in the cap 25, by swaging or by some other method to define a distal end of the basket 15. A sleeve 26 defines the boundary of the first and second sections 19 and 20 and secures the strands 22 together thereat. The strands 22 lie in a parallel relationship between the sleeve 26 and a sleeve 27 located at the proximal end of the basket assembly 18. The individual strands 22 are prestressed or preformed so that without restraint they diverge from each other as they extend distally from the sleeve 26 through the

intermediate section 20. The filaments 24 are preformed to follow a helical path from the ends of the strands 22 to converge at the cap 25 to thereby define the third or most distal section 21 of the basket assembly 18.

5 While FIGS. 4 illustrates the strands 22 extending essentially parallel to each other in the first and section 19, it will be understood that the strands 22 could be intertwined or twisted while still retaining a compact cross-section. Additionally, the strands 22 in
10 the second section 20 could be preformed or stressed to follow a helical path between the sleeve 26 and the third section 23. With either of these constructions, the distal end 16 of the extractor 10 remains radially flexible and, by virtue of the sheath 17, axially stiff to
15 facilitate placement of the extractor 10. The combination of radial flexibility and axial stiffness is particularly important when the extractor 10 has the form shown in Fig. 4 with the sheath 17 advanced distally to the cap 25.

More specifically, a physician will introduce the
20 extractor 10 with its distal end 16 in the form shown in Fig. 4 so the sheath 17 retains the retrieval basket 15 in its compact form. When the distal end 16 is positioned proximate at calculi or any other object to be retrieved, the physician moves the slider 14 from position 14B to the
25 position 14A in Fig. 1. This retracts the sheath 17 and exposes the second and third sections 20 and 21 of the basket assembly 18. The wires return to their original shape as shown in Fig. 2 thereby to dilate surrounding tissue and to provide a structure that can be manipulated
30 to capture calculi within the confines of the retrieval basket 15. Preferably, the distal end 16 of the extractor 10 is positioned distally of the object prior to displacement of the sheath 17 so that the intermediate section 20 is adjacent or distally proximate the object to
35 ease and speed capture of the object within the basket.

With the present invention, a physician can manipulate the retrieval basket 15 so that the calculi or other objects between the filaments 24 or strands 22 in

much a similar manner as in prior art retrieval baskets. However, the reduced number of strands 22 in the intermediate section 20 greatly eases and simplifies this task.

5 Two different procedures for capturing calculi and the like demonstrate the ease with which the task can be realized. In a first, the physician positions the distal end 16 of the extractor 10 to or beyond the calculi, moves the retrieval basket 15 out of the sheath 17 so the
10 retrieval basket 15 expands beyond the calculi. As the physician displaces the retrieval basket 15 proximally, the strands 22 can straddle the calculi and allow the filaments 24 to capture the calculi. As an alternative, the distal end 16 can be positioned so the compacted
15 retrieval basket 15 is coextensive with the calculi. Retracting the sheath 17 enables the retrieval basket 15 to expand around the calculi so subsequent withdrawal enables the strands 24 to capture the calculi.

 The increased number of filaments 24 in the distal
20 section 21 that engage the calculi and urge it along as the extractor moves proximally reduces the chances that the calculi can move between adjacent filaments. The close spacing of the filaments 24 also allows for entrapment and retention of small objects which would not
25 ordinarily be retained in retrieval baskets having the relatively wide spacing of the strands 22 necessary to capture larger objects. Moreover, this feature can be particularly useful in removing impacted or embedded calculi that in the past generally required major surgery
30 for removal, as the retraction of the basket 15 over such calculi tends to scoop it into the third, web-like section 21.

 Once the physician has moved calculi into the distal portion 10 of the retrieval basket 15, the physician
35 advances the sheath 17 distally and reduces the volume of the retrieval basket 15 until it contacts the entrapped calculi (e.g., the volume of the basket shown in FIG. 3 with the slider 14 in the position 14C shown in phantom in

FIG.1). Then the physician withdraws the extractor 10 with the entrapped calculi from the patient.

In some situations during withdrawal of the extractor 10, the retrieval basket 15 and entrapped calculi must pass a stricture in a vessel. In such situations it may be desirable to terminate the procedure and withdraw the extractor 10. With the extractor 10 according to this invention, the physician positions the distal end 16 distally of the stricture in a relatively open portion of the vessel. The physician then manipulates the retrieval basket 15 to urge the calculi to the proximal end of the expanded basket (i.e., the intermediate section 19) where the strands 22 are widely spaced relative to the filaments 24 and the calculi are most readily released from the retrieval basket 15. Then the physician can advance the sheath to retain the retrieval basket 15 in its compact form thereby to facilitate the removal of the extractor 10 from the body of the patient.

During manufacture of the specific embodiment of FIGS. 1 through 4, composite wires 28 are formed to extend axially with the strand 22 constituting a first axial portion from which the second comprising the four individual filaments 24 extends. The distal ends of all the filaments 24 are soldered or swaged into the cap 25. The sleeve 26 engages the strands 22 at the juncture of the first and second axial sections 19 and 20. It will be understood that the strands 22 can comprise extensions of the four individual filaments 24 that are secured or otherwise entwined. Alternatively, the filaments 24 can constitute separate filaments that attach to the distal end of each of the strands 22 that comprise solid or braided wire. Applicants also note as a further alternative that the sets of threads such as those disclosed by the Bates et al. in U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 08/258,121 and incorporated by reference herein can also be used with the present invention. Specifically, each of the strands 22 forming the proximal portion 18 of the retrieval basket 15 of FIG. 2, for

example, would comprise a plurality of closely spaced filaments and/or each of the filaments 24 in the distal portion 19 of the basket 15 would comprise a plurality of closely spaced threads. In essence, this invention allows
5 the construction of a retrieval basket in which the form and materials of the first and second sections 20 and 21 can be tailored to meet criteria including strength and flexibility.

After forming the composite wires 28 and attaching
10 the cap 25 and the sleeve 26, prestressing the wires 28 occurs to form the retrieval basket 15. The wires 28 intermediate the cap 25 and the sleeve 26 in the opposed ends of a forming tool. This tool extends transversely from a center axis by a distance corresponding to the
15 desired diameter of the retrieval basket 15. It rotates about its axis in the plane of the wires back and forth approximately $+75^\circ$ and -75° so that each end of the tool slides along one of the wires and urge, and thus prestress, both of such wires radially outward to define
20 the basket 15 with the desired diameter.

After the first tool is removed, two circular forming tools receive a distal and proximal portion, respectively, of each of the filaments 24 with the filaments disposed essentially equiangularly about the tools. Rotation of
25 the tools in opposite directions (i.e., counter-clockwise and clockwise directions) prestresses the filaments 24 in the helical fashion illustrated in FIGS. 1, 2 and 3. Consequently, the two strands 22 are equiangularly spaced apart to facilitate the capture of large objects within
30 the basket 15 while the relatively close angularly spacing, approximately 45° , of the filaments improves retention of smaller objects in the web-like, distal portion of the basket 15. It should also be understood that the filaments 24 may be preformed similarly to that
35 described above with respect to the strands 22 (i.e., straight wire), and the strands 22 also may be preformed in the same manner as the filaments 24 (i.e., helically wound).

Retrieval baskets according to this invention enable a user to select a retrieval basket which has both the advantages of baskets with a relatively few widely equiangularly spaced wires and those with closely spaced wires, while avoiding the disadvantages associated with each. That is, the use of multiple filaments 24 in the third, or most distal section 21 increases the number of contact points with any entrapped calculi whereas the more widely spaced strands 24 in the intermediate section 20 promote capture of such calculi. In Fig. 2, for example, the eight filaments 24 of the wires 28 provide multiple contacts for calculi therein rather than the contact which would be provided with a pair of the individual strands 22 extended through the third, or most distal, section 21. The close equiangular spacing of the filaments 24 also permits the retrieval basket 15 to accommodate surface unevenness of such calculi to thereby increase its reliability and suitability. The reduced number of strands 22 within the intermediate section 20 and increased angular spacing between adjacent ones of the strands 22 allow a physician to maneuver the basket 15 to entrap and retain calculi more easily. This increased facility by means of increased numbers of filaments, such as quadrupling from two strands 22 to eight filaments 24, occurs without increasing the overall size of the sheath 17 and without reducing the strength of the retrieval basket 15. For example, it is possible to place two individual strands having a diameter of 0.010" in a sheath 17 with an outside diameter of 3.0 Fr and to place eight filaments having a diameter of 0.006" in the same sheath due to the change in packing efficiency.

When the sheath 17 moves from the position shown in FIG. 4 to the position shown in FIG. 3, the expanded portion of the retrieval basket 15 comprises only the distal section 21 of the basket 15. This configuration of the basket, while not providing the physician with the same overall size and consequently narrow angular spacing of the filaments through which the calculi must pass, can

be used in locations where full expansion of the basket is impractical such as close to the wall of an organ or a narrow or otherwise weakened lumen in the body. In any event, this feature allows further and diverse use of the
5 retrieval basket of this invention compared to prior retrieval baskets.

Fig. 5 depicts an alternative embodiment of a retrieval basket 15A and sheath 17A at a distal end 16A of the extractor 10A. In this particular embodiment, the
10 retrieval basket 15A comprises four wires 48. Each of the wires 48 comprises a first section 48A and a second section 48B. The first section 48A of each of the wires 48 comprises an individual strand 22A extends through first and second sections 19A and 20A of a basket assembly
15 18A. The second section 48B of each of the wires comprises two filaments 24A extending from the distal end of the associated one of the individual strands 22A to a cap 25A to define a third distal section of the basket assembly 18A. The cap 25A captures the ends of all the
20 filaments 24A to define the distal end of the basket 15A, and a sleeve connector 26A that secures the strands 22A together defines the proximal end of the basket 15A. In this particular embodiment each of the strands 22A are angularly spaced by about 90° from adjacent strands, while
25 the filaments 24A are helical wound and angularly spaced by about 45°. In this particular embodiment, a filiform 49 extends distally from the cap 25A. Such filiforms are known in the art and can be included as an element in any embodiment of this invention.

30 Fig. 6 depicts only second and third sections 20B and 21B of the basket assembly 18B at the distal end 16B of another embodiment of a surgical extractor 10B. Retraction of a sheath 17B at the distal end 16B of the surgical extractor 10B to the illustrated position enables
35 the second and third sections 20B and 21B to form the enlarged retrieval basket 15B extending between a cap 25B and a sleeve 26B. Two wires 58 define the retrieval basket 15B, with each of the wires comprising a individual

strand 22B extending distally from the proximal end of the end of the basket and six filaments 24B extending proximally from the distal end of the basket to the distal end of the associated strand 22B. The filaments 24B in this instance are prestressed to follow a helical path. The strands 22B of this embodiment comprise the associated filaments 24B secured together. Specifically, the filaments 24B are secured together by being entwined to define each of the strands 22B.

FIGS. 7, 8 and 9 illustrate other surgical extractor embodiments constructed in accordance with this invention. The retrieval baskets 15C, 15D, and 15E of the extractors 10C, 10D and 10E comprise a plurality of wires with each of the wires having substantially more filaments in the distal portion of the basket than strands in the proximal portion. For example, each of the two wires 68 of the basket 15C of FIG. 7 comprises a strand 22C in the proximal section 21C and five filaments 24C in the distal section, while each of the three wires 78 of the basket 15D of FIG. 8 comprise a strand 22D and three filaments 24D. Four wires 80 define the basket 15E of FIG. 9. Each includes an individual strand 22E and four filaments 24E. Although, each of the filaments 64, 74, and 84 of the baskets 15C, 15D, and 15E are prestressed, they are not helically wound like the filaments of the baskets 15, 15A and 15B of FIGS. 1 through 6. That is each of the filaments 24E between one of the strands 82 and the cap 25E is prestressed to extend radially away from the axis of the basket 15E and to be spaced from each of the other filaments. It will also be noted that the extractor 10D of FIG. 8 also includes an expansible balloon 85 connecting through a port 86 within an inflation source (not shown) for selective inflation of the balloon 85.

The baskets 15, 15A, 15B, 15C, 15D, and 15E described in connection with FIGS. 1 through 9 may also be formed by the method described in the co-pending, commonly assigned U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 08/342,911 filed on November 21, 1994, "SURGICAL RETRIEVAL BASKET AND METHOD

FOR MAKING THE SAME". Using the process described therein provides strands and filaments with improved strength, durability and other characteristics.

As previously indicated with respect to Fig 1, the
5 sheath 17 extends between the handle 11 and the distal end 16. An interconnecting link allows the slider 14 to move the sheath 17 relative to the distal end 16. This link comprises a radially flexible, axially stiff stainless steel cable 90 that is shown at its distal end in FIG. 4,
10 and at its proximal end in Figs. 7 and 8. The sheath 17 retains the cable 90 on its axis.

Now referring to Figs. 7 through 9, the proximal end of the cable 90 attaches to a rod 91 by swaging, soldering or other method. The rod 91 extends proximally into the
15 handle 11. More specifically, the handle base 13 includes a hollowed handle portion 92 with an internal boss or receptacle 93 that receives the proximal end of the rod 91. Typically the proximal end of the rod 91 will be affixed in the receptacle 93 by an adhesive, ultrasonic
20 or other fastening technique. Consequently, the rod 69, the cable 90 and the basket 15 are fixed spatially with respect to the handle 11.

The slider 14 rides in an axially extending chamber 94 within the base 13 formed with a radially extending
25 slot 95. The slider 14 comprises a cylindrical, elongated body 96 that has a radial passageway 97 for allowing the cylindrical body 96 to slide axially and freely in the chamber 94 with respect to the base 13 and the rod 91.

A thumb actuator 100 includes a thumb pad 101 and
30 radial arm 102 that are molded integrally with and extend radially from the cylindrical body 96. The arm 102 extends through the slot 95 and is therefore slidable along the axis of the extractor 10 between distal and proximal positions. In this particular embodiment the
35 base portion 11 includes radially extending bosses 103 and 104 that define the proximal and distal terminations of the slot 95 respectively. The slider than moves between a proximal position, defined when the arm 102 reaches the

boss 103, and a distal position defined when the arm 102 reaches the boss 104.

The distal end of the cylindrical body 96 supports a Luer-lock fitting 105. A first component or base 106
5 attaches to the cylindrical body 96 and includes an axially extending aperture that allows the rod 91 to pass through the fitting 105. A detachable component 107 carries the sheath 17. Consequently, as a physician moves the thumb actuator pad 101 between proximal and distal
10 positions, the slider 14 and the sheath 17 move relative to the rod 91, the cable 90 and the retrieval basket 15 (Fig. 1). Further as the thumb pad 101 moves toward the distal position, the distal end of the sheath 17, as shown in Figs. 2 and 3, advances over and compacts the strands
15 22 of the retrieval basket 15 due to the axial stiffness and hoop strength of a polyimide tube or tube of similar material.

Therefore, in each of the specifically disclosed embodiments an extractor that meets the various objects of
20 this invention. The extractor simplifies the capture and release of objects by providing a relatively few wires comprising individual strands at the proximal end of the basket. The extractor also provides for improved retention of objects captured thereby by providing a
25 basket with a plurality of wires with a plurality of filaments at the distal end. Specifically, in each embodiment spaced, preformed wires each have individual strands in the proximal section and a plurality of spaced filaments at the distal portion. The spaced filaments
30 increase the number of contact points with an entrapped calculi at the distal section of the basket. Yet there is no concomitant increase in the contact points in the number of wires or strands in the proximal section of the basket.

35 This invention has been disclosed in terms of certain embodiments. It will be apparent that many modifications can be made to the disclosed apparatus without departing from the invention. For example, FIGS. 1 and 2 depict a

retrieval basket 15 with two prestressed strands 22 and
eight filaments 24. Each set of four filaments is
interconnected only at the ends thereof. Consequently the
filaments 24 in each set may be widely spaced where they
5 join their respective strands 22. This opening, in
appropriate circumstances, might be reduced by
interconnecting adjacent strands from each set by a
connector, by joining or by some other means. Therefore,
it is the intent of the appended claims to cover all such
10 variations and modifications as come within the true
spirit and scope of this invention.

Claims

1. In a surgical extractor for removing an object from a body including a retrieval basket with distal and proximal ends and a retractable sheath for retaining
5 in a first position said retrieval basket in a compact condition and in a second position, freeing said retrieval basket for expansion to form an enlarged basket for retrieving an object, the improvement wherein said basket comprises a plurality
10 of wires extending between said distal and proximal ends of said basket, each of said wires comprising an individual strand extending from one of said distal and proximal ends of said basket and a plurality of spaced filaments extending between said strand and
15 the other of said distal and proximal ends.
2. A surgical extractor as recited in claim 1 wherein said wires forming said basket are formed of a shape memory material.
3. A surgical extractor as recited in claim 2 wherein
20 the shape memory material is stainless steel.
4. A surgical extractor as recited in claim 3 wherein said plurality of wires comprises a pair of wires.
5. A surgical extractor as recited in claim 4 wherein said spaced filaments are in the range of two to six.
- 25 6. A surgical extractor as recited in claim 3 wherein said wires are in the range of two to four.
7. A surgical extractor as recited in claim 6 wherein said plurality of spaced filaments of each of said wires is in the range of two to six.
- 30 8. A surgical extractor as recited in claim 2 wherein at least one of said strands of said wires comprise said plurality of spaced filaments of said wire secured together.
9. A surgical extractor as recited in claim 2 wherein at
35 least one of said strands of said wires is a solid wire secured to said plurality of filaments of said one of said wires.

10. A surgical extractor as recited in claim 1 wherein said plurality of spaced filament of each of said wires is in the range of two to six filaments.
11. A surgical extractor as recited in claim 10 wherein
5 said plurality of wires comprises in the range of two to four wires.
12. A surgical extractor as recited in claim 10 wherein at least one of said strands of said wires comprise said plurality of spaced filaments of said wire
10 secured together.
13. A surgical extractor as recited in claim 1 wherein said filaments form a web-like structure the other of said distal and proximal ends of said basket.
14. A surgical extractor as recited in claim 1 wherein at
15 least one of said strands of said wires comprise said plurality of spaced filaments of said wire secured together.
15. A surgical extractor as recited in claim 1 wherein each of said filaments is helically wound with each
20 of said filaments constituting a turn in a helix.
16. A surgical extractor for removing an object from a body comprising:
 - A) handle means extending along an axis at a proximal portion of said extractor for operating
25 said extractor, said handle means having base means for being grasped by a physician and slider means for reciprocating along the axis with respect to said base means,
 - B) basket forming means connected to said base
30 means for forming a basket distally of said handle means, said basket forming means having a distal portion including a set of spaced, spring formed wires with each of the wires including a first section comprising an individual strand
35 and a second section comprising a plurality of spaced filaments of wires and said wires being prestressed for forming an enlarged basket,

- C) sheath means connected to said slider means and axially displaceable between first and second positions with respect to said basket forming means whereby said sheath means retains said wires in a compact form within said sheath means in a first position and exposes the distal portion of said basket forming means in the second position thereby to enable said prestressed wires to form an enlarged basket including said first and second sections.
17. A surgical extractor as recited in claim 16 wherein each of said filaments is helically wound with each of said filaments constituting a turn in a helix.
18. A surgical extractor as recited in claim 16 wherein said sheath means is axially displaceable intermediate the first and second positions with respect to said basket forming means whereby said sheath means retains said first section of wires in a compact form within said sheath means in the intermediate position and exposes the second section of wires in the intermediate position thereby to enable said second section of said prestressed wires to form an enlarged basket comprising said second sections of said wires.
19. A surgical extractor as recited in claim 18 wherein said wires of said set of wires is in the range of two to four.
20. A surgical extractor as recited in claim 19 wherein said filaments are in the range of four to sixteen.
21. A surgical extractor as recited in claim 20 wherein the wires are formed of a shape memory material.
22. A surgical extractor as recited in claim 19 wherein the shape memory material is stainless steel.
23. A surgical extractor as recited in claim 19 wherein at least one strand of one of said wires comprises the filaments of said one wire secured together.

24. A surgical extractor as recited in claim 19 wherein at least one of said wires comprises said strand secured to said filaments.
25. A surgical extractor as recited in claim 16 wherein
5 said set of wires comprise in the range of approximately 2 to 4 wires.
26. A surgical extractor as recited in claim 25 wherein said filaments of each of said second section is in the range of 2 to 4.
- 10 27. A surgical extractor as recited in claim 26 wherein each of said filaments is helically wound with each of said filaments constituting a turn in a helix and each of said strands extend in substantially a planar fashion.
- 15 28. A surgical extractor as recited in claim 16 additionally comprising radially flexible, axially stiff support means attached intermediate said handle base means and said basket forming means and lying within said sheath means wherein said filaments
20 additionally have a proximal portion that attaches to the distal end of said support means and said basket forming means additionally includes means at opposite ends of said distal portion for binding said filaments and strands, respectively, together thereat
25 to thereby limit the axial extent of said enlarged basket.
29. A surgical extractor as recited in claim 28 wherein said extractor additionally includes a filiform extending distally of said distal portion.
- 30 30. A surgical extractor as recited in claim 16 wherein said filaments and support means are formed of stainless steel.
31. A surgical extractor as recited in claim 30 wherein said sheath comprises a polyimide tube that overlies
35 said support means and said wires.
32. A surgical extractor as recited in claim 16 wherein said handle means and said slider means are formed of molded plastic.

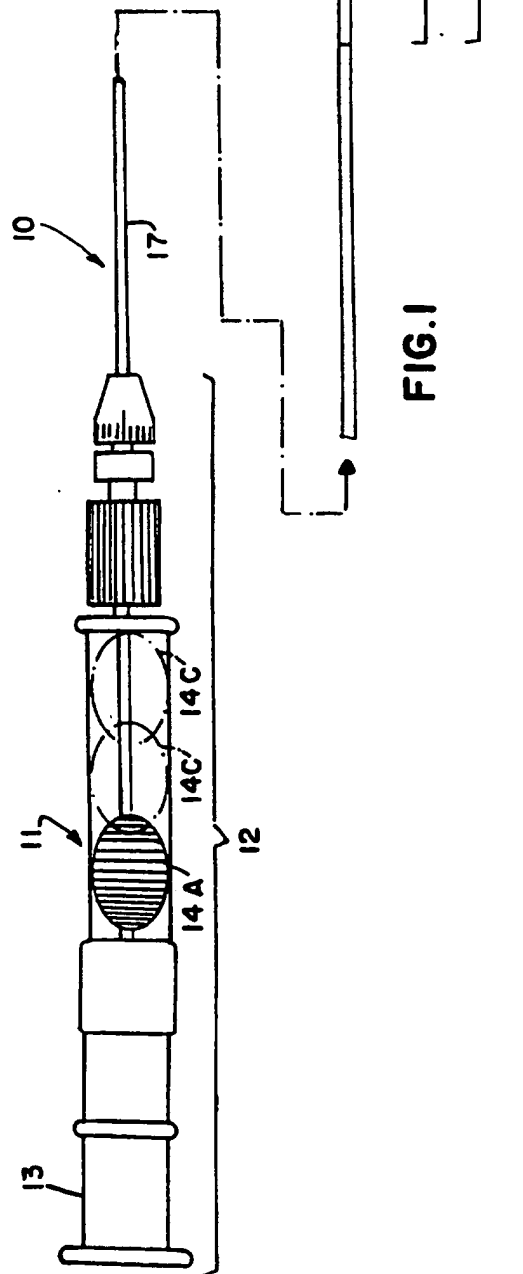
33. A surgical extractor as recited in claim 32 wherein said support means and said wires are formed of stainless steel and said sheath is formed of polyimide.
- 5 34. A surgical extractor as recited in claim 16 wherein said second sections of said wires form a web-like portion defining a distal portion of said enlarged basket for retaining the object therein.
- 10 35. A surgical extractor as recited in claim 34 wherein each of said filaments is helically wound with each of said filaments constituting a turn in a helix.
- 15 36. A surgical extractor as recited in claim 34 wherein said sheath means is axially displaceable intermediate the first and second positions with respect to said basket forming means whereby said sheath means retains said first section of wires in a compact form within said sheath means in the intermediate position and exposes the second section of wires in the intermediate position thereby to enable said second section of said prestressed wires to form an enlarged basket comprising said second sections of said wires.
- 20 37. A surgical extractor as recited in claim 34 wherein said filaments is in the range of four to sixteen.
- 25 38. A surgical extractor as recited in claim 16 wherein said filaments is in the range of four to sixteen.
39. A surgical extractor for removing objects from a body comprising:
- 30 A) a molded plastic, partially hollowed base extending axially,
- B) support means including a solid stainless steel radially flexible, axially stiff rod attached to said base and extending distally therefrom, a stainless steel cable extending distally from said rod and means for connecting said rod and said cable together axially,
- 35 C) a plurality of stainless steel wires attached to the distal end of said cable, each of said wires

having a proximal portion comprising an individual strand and a distal portion comprising a plurality of filaments.

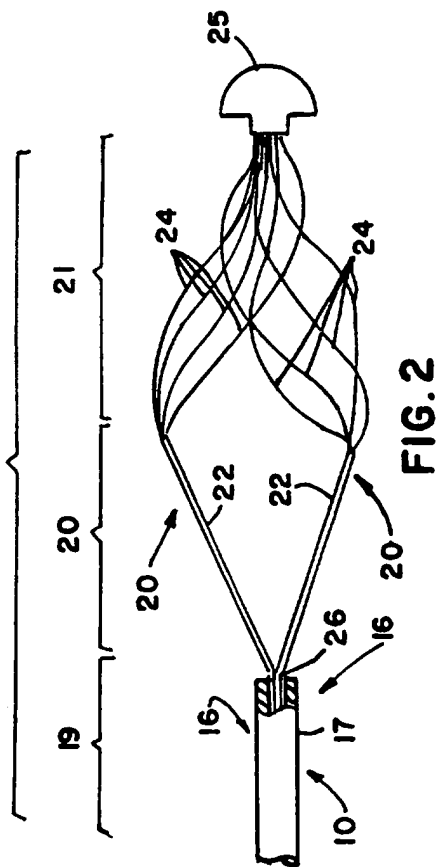
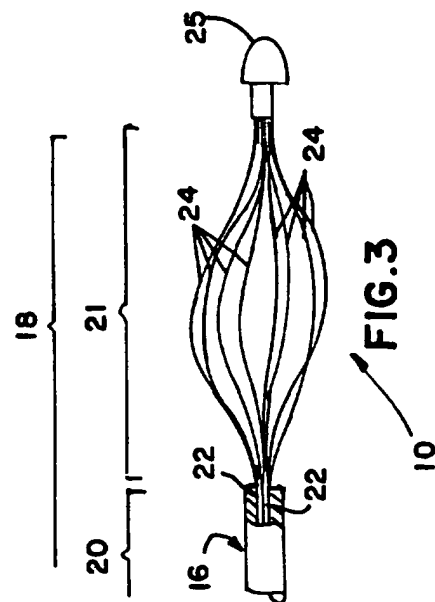
- 5 D) a plastic slider captured in said base for limited axial movement relative thereto between distal and proximal positions, and
- 10 E) a polyimide sheath of a given internal diameter having a proximal end attached to said slider for overlying said support means and said wires, said slider, in its distal position, locating said sheath coextensively with said distal portion of said wires thereby to compact and retain said wires at substantially the given diameter and, in its proximal position,
- 15 retracting said sheath to release said wires to form an enlarged retrieval basket for entrapping the object, said basket including said first and second sections of said wires such that each of said filaments is spaced from said other
- 20 filaments and each of said strands are spaced from said other strands.
40. A surgical extractor as recited in claim 35 wherein said surgical extractor additionally includes a filiform extending distally of said wires for
- 25 facilitating the steering of said extractor.
41. A surgical extractor as recited in claim 39 wherein said plurality stainless steel wires is in the range of two to four wires.
42. A surgical extractor as recited in claim 39 wherein
- 30 said filaments are in the range of four to sixteen filaments.
43. A surgical extractor as recited in claim 39 wherein said slider, in a position intermediate its distal and proximal positions, locates said sheath
- 35 coextensively with said first section of said wires thereby to compact and retain said first section at substantially the given diameter and to release said second section to define a second retrieval basket of

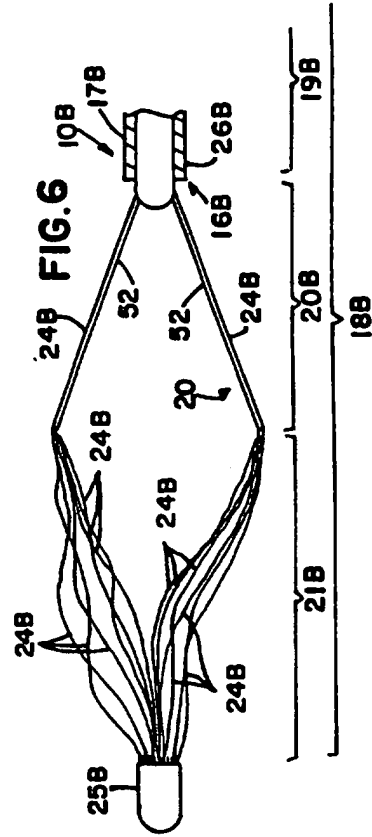
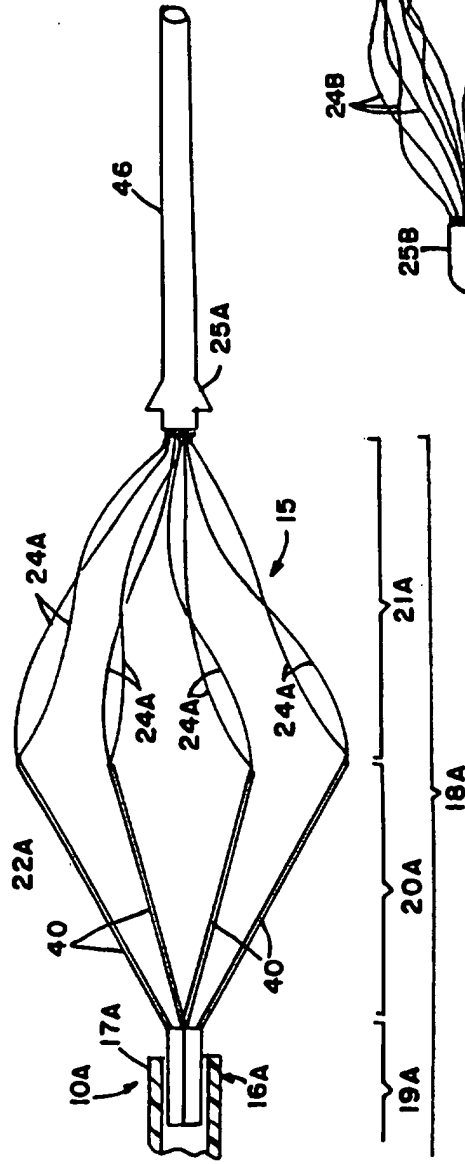
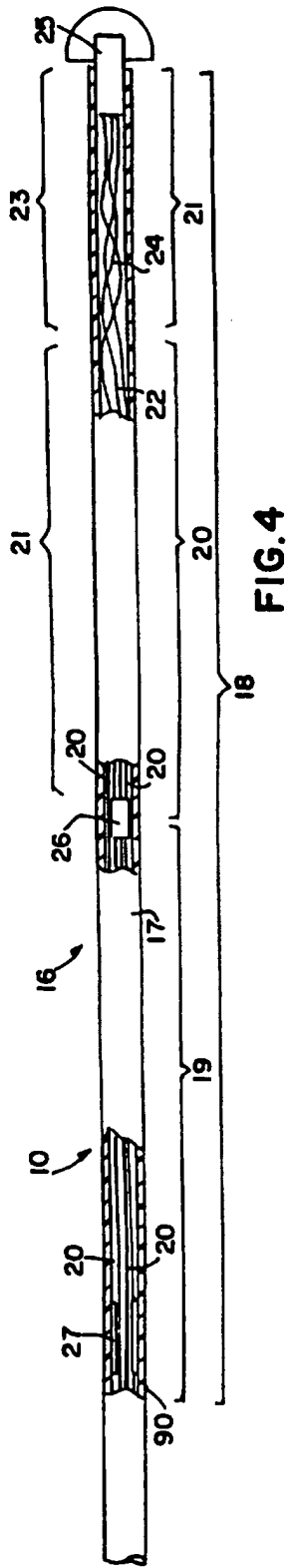
reduced length and diameter relative to said first
retrieval basket.

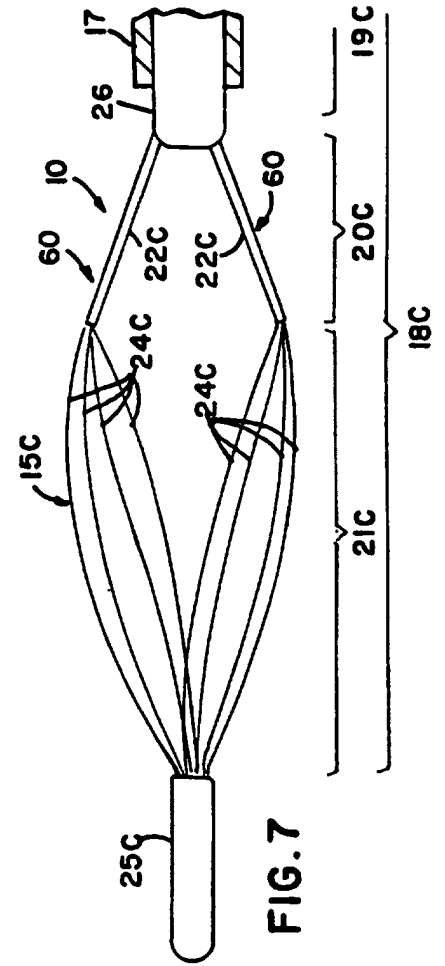
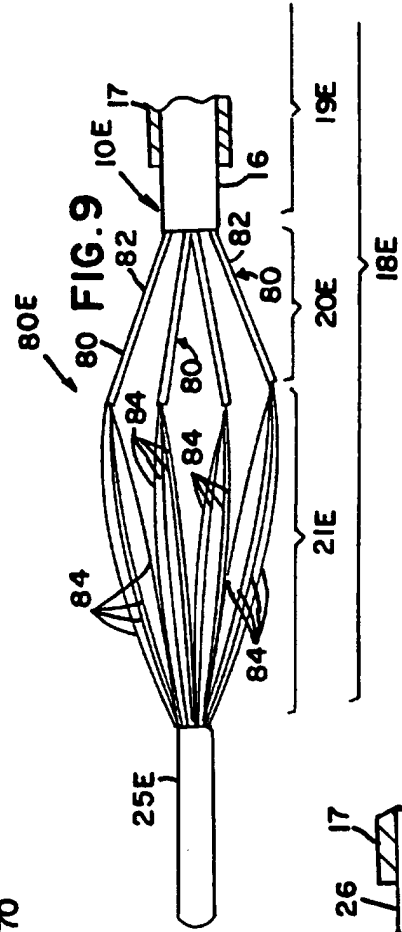
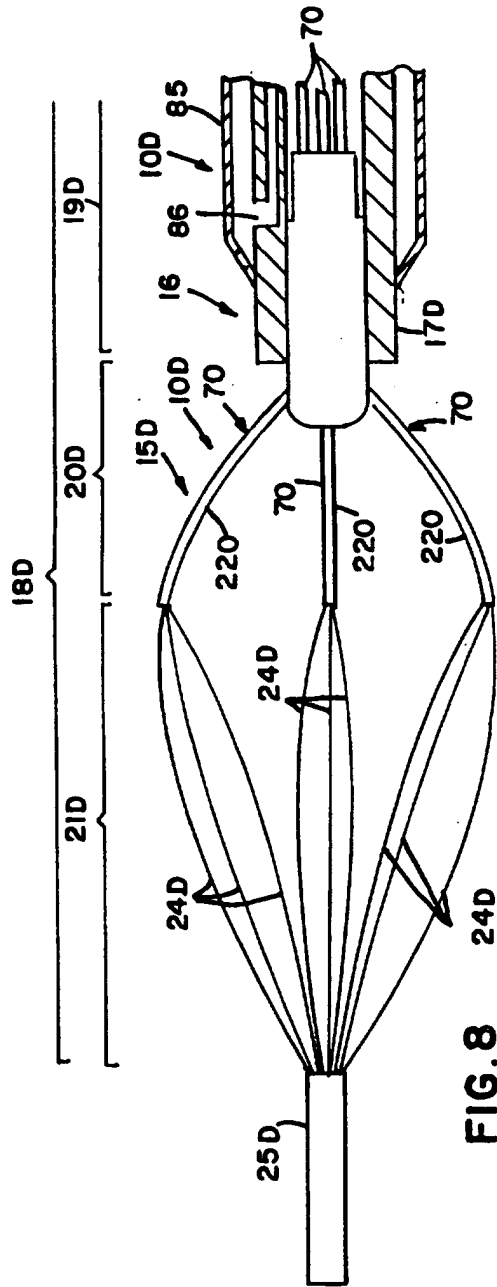
44. A surgical extractor as recited in claim 39 wherein
said filaments form a web-like structure in a distal
5 portion of said basket.

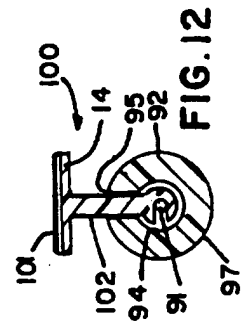
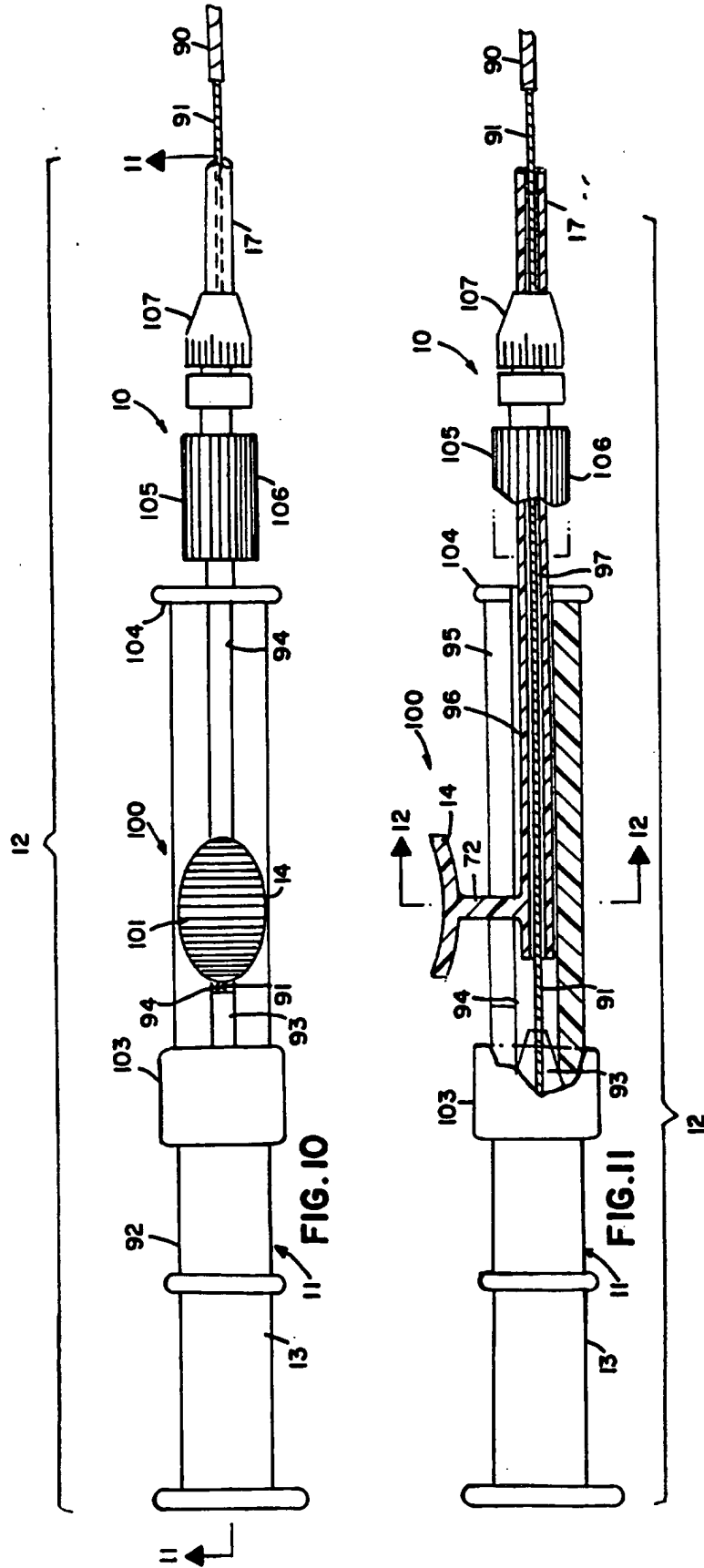


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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US96/01326

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(6) :A61B 17/22

US CL :606/110, 113, 114, 127

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

U.S. : 604/95; 606/106, 110, 113, 114, 127, 128

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X --- Y	US, A, 3,008,467 (W. E. MORRIS) 11 November 1961, see Figs, 2 and 6.	1-7, 9-11, 13, 16, 18, 19, 21, 22, 24-26, 28- 30, 34, 36 ----- 8, 12, 14, 15, 17, 20, 23, 27, 31-33, 35, 37- 44
Y	US, A, 4,046,150 (SCHWARTZ ET AL.) 06 September 1977, see Fig. 4.	8, 12, 14, 15, 17, 20, 23, 27, 31-33, 35, 37- 44



Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.



See patent family annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:	*T	later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
A document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be part of particular relevance	*X*	document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
E earlier document published on or after the international filing date	*Y*	document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art
L document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)	*G*	document member of the same patent family
O document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means		
P document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed		


Date of the actual completion of the international search

13 MARCH 1996

Date of mailing of the international search report

29 MAR 1996

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